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CONTENTS

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A SERMON ON INSOMNIA.

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of it puts patients on the rack of torture, or in the madhouse, or in the grave. O blessed Sleep," thou cannot touch the tired eyes whilst pain is gnawing-R. TALMAGE recently preached a vig- Pain the wolf of Gubbio whom all men fear! And wolf of Gubbio, no matter what guise he may assume, orous sermon on the subject of where is the good priest St. Francis to go forth and whether it be headache of the wearied mother or insomnia, in which he pointed out tame the monster? The blessed one who preached the blessings of sleep and the pray- a sermon to the birds and God sped their airy flight erful opportunities of wakefulness. to the four corners of the world by the symbolism bones or soreness of the flesh. Five-Grain Antithe relaxation of muscles and the solace of the drugs which depress the sore heart adding weariness it is a calming of the pulses; it is a breathing much find two words which the flux of time has made one: speech "opposed to pain" and known by us as strength and refreshed vigor. it is a great mercy of God for the human race. Lack both numerically symbolic and accessible to all. earth! - Washington Medical Reporter.

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Verily it wooes sleep as gently as Love wooed with restful calm, when the waking comes it is as

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NTERPRETATION.

"What went ye out into the wilderness to see? a reed shaken by the wind?"

Human nature is ever the same, and this question by the Master to the Pharisees, nineteen hundred years ago, referred to the same tendency to run after new things which is so characteristic of the present generation. While this trait of character is general, it seems to be now, more than ever before, specially marked in music.

Ever since the days when Barnum managed Jenny Lind, every manager who has had in charge the sale of the musical wares of some so-called artist or virtuoso, has looked about him for means whereby he might call special attention to what he had to sell. It has been quoted of Barnum that he said the American people enjoyed being humbugged. Whether he said this or not, he was a most excellent

judge of human nature, and catered to the demand for novelty and something extraordinary, which is more or less present in all of us. Other managers have followed in his footsteps. All the peculiarities and idiosyncrasies of the artist, which would in any way whet the curiosity of the public, have been enlarged upon.

Thus discussions are started as to the relation which long hair, or great muscular development, has to artistic piano playing; or whether a long neck helps to produce high notes. All this has a tendency to create in the public an artificial appetite, which grows the more it is fed. Thus the public goes to hear an artist in an artificially prepared frame of mind, and owing to this expectant condition, is, in a certain degree, hypnotized. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that the public is unable to form a correct judgment as to the actual artistic value of what it has heard.

The world moves—in music as in everything else, and when the movement is a steady onward march of progress, those who profess to be leaders in this department of thought and feeling should cheerfully progress with it; but if the movement be only for the sake of change—if it be a vascillating one, which tends to swerve from the path of true progress, it becomes the duty of these professed leaders to call a halt, or to so change the direction of the movement that true progress may be made. It therefore remains for the small minority who are able to use their own judgment, to decide whether what they have heard is really up to a high artistic standard; or whether the success of the performer has been largely caused by the false light which has been thrown upon him. Far be it from me to attempt to decry the great success of artists who have honestly tried, and have honestly succeeded in their undertakings. I wish, however, to draw a sharp line of distinction between true artistic worth, and those who bid for public favor by adopting the means of advertising used by the manager of a dime museum to exhibit his attractions.

Ever since the days of Paganini, the one word to conjure with has been "technic". It has been held up and worshipped, until, from its position as a slave, it has been exalted to that of a fetich. Imprisoned Paganini whiled away the dreary hours by attempting all sorts of impossibilities on the violin, and succeeded so that those who heard him were so bewitched by his marvelous technic as to often lose sight of the intrinsic value of the music. Later on, Liszt achieved a proportionate success with the piano; and from that time, the majority of the virtuosos in every branch of music have sought to electrify and astonish the world by accomplishing some feat of musical jugglery, which until then had been considered an impossibility. In this way, the what of music has often been sacrificed to the how. This has perhaps been more pronounced in piano playing than in any other branch of



CHARLES SOUTHWELL,
Manager of the Castle Square Opera Company.

music, though it is more or less evident everywhere. Its great development in piano playing has undoubtedly been largely caused by the construction and peculiarities of the piano, which particularly adapt it to the display of virtuosity. From this cause, schools of piano playing are established, whose one aim is development of technic.

I have no wish to decry technic in any branch of musical art, so long as it keeps its true place, i. e., as a servant in conveying the message from composer to auditor; but I wish to combat the tendency which exalts technic in an undue degree, with the result that the spiritual content of the music is sacrificed to display the egotism of the performer.

In this respect, the stage of to-day is far in advance of musical art. The day of the so-called "actor of the old school" is passed. We now demand from an actor a fidelity to truth and human nature, and a sincerity of expression, which has taken the place of the stilted mouthings and grotesque facial contortions of past generations.

Interpretation, in its musical sense, means the transferring of the thoughts and emotions of the composer to the hearer. In the case of song, it also includes all the meaning which may be expressed in the words. According to Tolstoi (in his "What is Art?") the word 'Art'' means practically the same as "Interpretation", as art is that which conveys an impression from one to another; so we may consider the words "Artist" and "Interpreter" to be, in a musical sense, synonymous. It is essential for an artist that his interpretation be true. I wish to make a marked distinction between dishonest art, as displayed by many, and the differences in readings and interpretations which are honestly caused by the personality and individuality of the artist. It is conceded that an artist should endeavor to sink his own individuality in his conception of the message which he seeks to interpret, but there is plenty of room for honest differences of opinion

> among authorities as to the minor details of interpretation, so as to give, as nearly as possible, the exact intent of the composer; and, to a limited extent, the same artist will vary in his successive interpretations of the same message, according to his mood and physical and mental condition. However, the essential thing is that he shall be honest in his endeavor to give a conscientious interpretation, and, when this is the case, the minor details become merely a matter of personal opinion. The criterion by which we must judge is Sincerity of Purpose. This is the key-note of true art, and is the direct antithesis of personal egotism and ambition which produce false art. He who forgets the spiritual content of the music which he pretends to interpret, and, in its place, seeks to display his personal powers, lowers himself to the plane of the conjurer or juggler.

We are captivated by a wizard who holds us enthralled, and we are apt to call his power over us, personal magnetism, or explain it as some mysterious psychological force which we do not understand. There is an influence of this kind in music—an influence which is at present only dimly understood; but this influence can only make itself felt when he who yields it is sincere, and has so far forgotten himself that the spiritual content of the message shines on and through him, and in this way is reflected by him. He must have technic—a perfect mastery over all his materials, but solely that there may be no impediment to the faithful and sincere interpretation of the message.

Therefore, let us be honest. Let us love music for its own sake, and not prostitute the noble art by making it pander to our love for the marvelous and wonderful. Let us set our faces steadily against all dishonesty, selfishness and egotism, until music becomes to all—what it is to a few—an inspiration to better deeds and holy things.

HORACE P. DIBBLE.

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THOMAS M. HYLAND, .

EDITOR

APRIL, 1900.

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NGLISH MUSIC AND

MUSICIANS OF TO-DAY.

A scathing arraignment of contemporary British musicians appeared recently in The Saturday Review. The writer said: "I am sorry to have to say that the English musicians of to-day remind me chiefly of a pack of querulous, gossiping, afternoon-tea old ladies. They have no higher ambition than to make money, to be applauded at a country festival, to become conductor of a festival or the Philharmonic Society. To gain the lowly objects of their ambition they intrigue against each other and grow to hate each other; and, without a noble aspiration in them, their vanity makes them so restlessly sensitive to criticism that they become furious when they are reminded that

their aspirations are not noble. There are a

few exceptions, naturally—thank heaven that

one can say naturally!—but those of my readers who know of the intrigues that have disgraced the musical life of England during the past few months, that have even led one popular musician to resign a festival conductorship, will not wonder any more than I do why we produce no great music. Our men have nothing to say-such men have never anything good to say; the really great men are not pettish, querulous, vain, and given to intrigue—and I go so far as to question whether they could say it if they had. "Meantime, it must be owned that the history of English music in the nineteenth century is a blank page. Whether that page will be covered with some one's gorgeous handwriting during the twentieth century is a thing that no man can tell."

HORAL SYMPHONY SOCIETY.

The Choral Symphony Society will give its tenth concert on the 5th inst. St. Saens' great sacred opera, "Samson and Delilah," with Mrs. Fisk and Mr. Hamlin in the title roles, and Guyline Miles, baritone, of New York, as the High Priest, will be presented.

Mrs. Fisk stands among the first of American vocal artists, and her reputation is international. Her performance of Delilah in London earned for her an ovation from the public, praises from the critics, and subsequent engagements from the managers.

Mr. Hamlin is considered the most successful American Samson, and has sung the part several times each season for a number of years. His voice is rich and powerful and well adapted to the music that falls to his share.

A rich treat is in store for patrons of the Choral-Symphony Society in the coming performance of "Samson and Delilah," with Mrs. Fisk and Messrs. Hamlin and Meyn as soloists, the grand chorus composed of St. Louis' best singers and the Symphony Orchestra.

THE Henneman Musicales are given every Sunday afteenoon at Henneman Hall, 3723 Olive street, and are doing their share towards musical culture. Mr. Henneman deserves credit for these musicales.

TNION MUSICAL CLUB.

The Union Musical Club will give a piano group recital on the 7th inst. at 3 p. m. at Memorial Hall. The next active members' concert will take place at Henneman Hall on the afternoon of the 14th inst. On the 21st inst. the last of the group recitals will be given. The famous Kneisel Quartette is booked for May 5th.

CHARLES I. DOERR, the popular young pianist and teacher, was heard at one of the recent Kunkel concerts. His rendition of Portrait No. 22, from Album of Portraits, Kamennoi Ostrow, was a notable one and won him well merited compliments. Mr. Doerr's playing has gained in repose and artistic finish and augurs well for the high position he has marked out for himself in the artistic world.

EMIL SAUER says: "I never practice now longer than four hours a day, and I never play formal exercises or studies. Beethoven's concertos and Hummel's works, not to mention the compositions of other masters, contain 'exercises' infinitely more valuable than which have ever been written for attaining digital agility."

EMILE KROEMEKE, the young pianist and pupil of Mr. Charles Kunkel, participated in the seventeenth Kunkel concert given on the 20th ult. Mr. Kroemeke proved himself a favorite with his audience, his playing of the Miserere from ''Il Trovatore,'' paraphrase de concert, by Verdi-Kunkel, winning great applause. Mr. Kroemeke is working hard and making most commendable progress in his studies.

A GRADUATING RECITAL was given by Miss May Patterson, of the Perry School of Oratory and Dramatic Art, at Y. M. C. A. Building, on the 17th ult. The hall was entirely filled by one of the most critical and delighted audiences of the season. The work evidenced by the Perry School of Oratory and Dramatic Art is of a high standard, and the prestige enjoyed by this institution here and throughout the country is well merited. Miss May Patterson deserves special praise for the success of her recital.

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STUDYING MUSIC.

Method means order. It is, according to Webster, "An orderly procedure or process; a rational way of investigating or exhibiting truth."

So thoroughly has the idea of the necessity of method in teaching taken possession of all true educators, that even unthinking people clamor for some method with a name—the more unpronounceable the better—and too often they clutch at the name only, rather than at the real thing.

Methods of education are constantly undergoing changes, as customs and costumes do, to fit the times.

The matter to be learned is not new, but the ability of men to recognize what should be learned and how to learn it, varies with increasing experience.

Methods of studying music have succeeded each other in epochs. There was the age of melody, or melodic outline, without a definite rhythm. The singer lengthening or shortening the notes to fit the words. There was the age of rhythm, in which the principles governing rhythmic law were investigated and applied, and new forms were developed. This was followed by the age of harmony, when the development of tone relations and progressions was the main consideration. This, in turn, was succeeded by the period of technique, both in writing and performing music. It has been said there is absolutely nothing more to be developed, in that line, that has not already been attained. Whether that be true or not, it is true that the reactionary swing of the pendulum has begun, and the demand is becoming more pronounced for an allaround, broad musicianship, rather than a one-sided success in any line of develop-

This demand of the times requires an adjusting of methods to fit the demand. The old-time sequence of studying first, Harmony which is the Grammar of music, second, Counterpoint the Rhetoric, and lastly, Form, the original expression of ideas, is as unnatural as was the student's method of trying to make the bean stay underground till the plant was grown, instead of coming up with the first sprouting leaf. His knowledge was gained from books rather than from nature. One need only watch mother nature to see the mistake. She starts with a little embryo plant, the subject, idea, or motive, which is to grow into a new and larger life. The roots grow down at the same time the leaves shoot up, opening first on one side, then on the other, keeping a perfect balance or equipoise.

Watch a bud unfold. It does not open the leaves on one side to full maturity while those on the opposite side remain tightly closed; but, on the contrary, the sepals and petals unfold in circles, round by round.

A stone thrown into the water does not start straight lines of motion to a great distance on one side before a particle is dislodged on the opposite side. On the contrary, the motion proceeds in circles from the center of

HE NATURAL METHOD OF disturbance, first in small circles, then in larger ones, the circumference growing larger, and embracing more waves of motion, and more particles of water, as the distance from the center increases.

> Music is, or should be, a clear, logical, poetic expression of ideas, and suggested ideals. Why should not the same natural, commonsense method be used in teaching it that is successfully used in teaching other things?

Examine the modern method of teaching children to read. First, they are given an object of interest from which they are encouraged to develop simple ideas, and tell them. Then they write what they think, and read it. Afterward, they read what some one else has written. Thus, in investigating a subject, they gain experience in original expression and in the interpretation of another's thought, all at the same time. This varied work is, necessarily, at first, in very simple form; but, as the



DELLLA NEVIN Contraito, Castle Square Opera Company.

ideas develop in variety and extent, the vocabulary must be enlarged, and the form of expression expanded from the simple to the complex, according to nature's law of growth.

Why should not the music pupil, in the same way, learn, during the very first lessons, to listen to simple music, and tell what it says, and, at the same time, learn to write in simple musical form?

The first requirement of attractive music is melody. Melody is a succession of musical tones, rhythmically arranged, which outlines or defines a subject or idea. Rhythm is an organized or orderly movement, and is the sign of a regulated life. Melody, then, is the progression of a motive, or the development of a subject, in orderly, symmetrical motion, with a definite purpose, toward a definite

The natural method begins with the first sign of life, which is motion. The pupil is helped to find out how motions can express

ideas, to discover the laws and principles regulating the orderly, graceful, or strong, movements of individuals, and also the combined motions of individuals working together. In the latter investigation, the laws of harmonious union are taught. The need of relation and proportion, in order to prevent friction and promote beauty. Simple sentences are constructed, which consist, first, of a beginning, mover, or motive; secondly, of a development into sections and phrases, which balance each other, and are related to each other either by contrast or complement; and, thirdly, of a cadential ending, or satisfactory conclusion or close. This can be taught either with one part, or with two or more parts, using tones of the same pitch, motion affecting the length of tones only, regardless of pitch. Complete sentences in regular or irregular periods, either simple or complex, can be fully developed before melodic succession or out-

After form in motion is made clear, outline, with the laws of light and shade, is easily introduced. The meaning of straight lines, curves and angles is explained and illustrated. Then follows naturally the union of movement and outline. Laws of concordant and discordant relations having been clearly understood in motion, there is little or no trouble in applying them to, and recognizing them in outline. The scales, or families of tones are explained before writing melody. The personal character of each, and the relation of each tone to the keynote. From these relations, based on the laws of vibrating strings and their harmonics, the laws regulating the combination of tones found within a given scale, or family of tones, into chords, their progression and resolution, are logically worked out, and illustrated in many ways from nature. Before pupils know anything about Harmony and Counterpoint by name, they are originating simple musical forms which express simple designs, plans, or thoughts, either in one part with accompaniment, or in several parts in harmonic or contrapuntal relation.

The interest aroused by originating forms in music, however simple they may be, is as different from the old method of copying a treble or bass part, and filling in the other parts according to non-illustrated rules, or writing chord progressions by the yard, or by the hour, as is the modern method of teaching rational and natural pathway. When the perspective of the natural has clearly led into the supernatural, then, and not till then, may faith, which is "the evidence of things not seen," teach an ideal which we know must exist, because the path leading to it evidently does not stop with our vision, but goes beyond. There is inspiration, exhilaration, in that kind of faith; and, having it, we can climb till our travel-worn feet shall carry us into the beyond, which then will be the here and now. But the "faith" that will not look, does not care to know as much of the why as is within sight, is not faith, but dupe-ism.

The modern method of teaching musical composition is called the "natural" method, because it aims to follow Nature's law of growth. Starting with the germ, or motive, original development, rhythmically, melodically and harmonically, is taught from the start.

A pupil's progress in this method can not be gauged by work done in the old method in the same time. More theoretical teaching is required in the beginning; and a pupil who only knows the tonic or noun chord, and the dominant-seventh or verb chord, should be well acquainted with the scientific and theoretic character of the major scale and each tone in it, and is expected to be able to write with the tones found in these two chords, a good eight-measure period in four-part dispersed harmony, or a melody with accompaniment, after which, passing notes, etc., new chords, melodic figures, and rhythmic devices are introduced one at a time, the pupils using them in improving and extending their forms.

The method is logical, natural, easily illustrated, rapid, and is pronounced by those who have studied both, far more interesting than the old.

It is impossible in one short article to explain, in detail, an entire course of study. All that can be attempted is a short outline of the plan of procedure, which any intelligent teacher can grasp. Thorough investigation is necessary to understand or use any method. Just as it takes time for a tree to grow from the seed; so a student in any line of investigation must have time to gain and show results.

I am often asked if my idea is to make composers of music out of my pupils. Not any more than the commonschool teacher expects to make a Shakespere, a Byron, a Tennyson, or a Longfellow, of each of her pupils. I do claim, however, that, if all music teachers would conscientiously study, and intelligently teach in this way, call their work by whatever name they may, we would have more people who could understand and appreciate the true content of good music when listening to it, instead of having to concern themselves so much with an artist's fingers, his piano and his dress, in order to affect intelligence in criti-

The laws of musical art are universal. Its ideals are eternal. Why should not we get at the heart of this wonderful tree of beauty, instead of picking always at the bark?

God speed the day when men shall hear His voice in Nature, and shall answer in Art, pointing others to Him through the perspective of their work.

MRS. FANNIE E. HUGHEY.

It is reported that much indignation is felt by the musical critics of Budapest owing to their exclusion from the final dress rehearsals at the Royal theatres. The reason given is that they form a judgment unfair to artists and composer by seeing the work under such conditions. UNKEL CONCERTS.

The increasing attendance at the Kunkel Concerts given weekly at Association Hall, Y. M. C. A. Building, prove the growing popularity of these genuine musical treats. With the best obtainable talent and programmes selected with great discrimination, it is not to be wondered at that the success of the concerts has been unparalleled. The following programmes have been rendered since last report:

259th Kunkel Concert—Fifteenth concert of the season, Tuesday evening, March 6th. 1. Sonata for Piano and Violin, op. 6, Gade; a. Allegro; b. Andante; c. Allegro; (classic—romantic). Messrs. Arnold Pesold and Charles Kunkel. 2. Song—Aria from "Lucia" (Silent the Sombre Wings of Night), Donizetti; (modern—romantic). Miss Mae Estelle Acton. 3. Violin Solo—Seventh Concerto, De Beriot; (classic—modern—romantic). Mr. Arnold Pesold. 4. Piano Solo—a. Trust in God (Religious Meditation), Melnotte; b. Heather Bells Polka, Kunkel; c. Germans Triumphal March, Kunkel;



BARON BERTHOLD, Tenor, Castle Square Opera Company.

(modern salon compositions). Mr. Charles Kunkel. 5. Song—Hindoo Chant, Bemberg; (modern—romantic). Miss Mae Estelle Acton. 6. Duet for Piano and Violin—Fantasie on themes from Donizetti's "Daughter of the Regiment," op. 88, De Beriot; (modern—romantic). Messrs. Arnold Pesold and Charles Kunkel.

260th Kunkel Concert—Sixteenth concert of the season, Tuesday evening, March 13th. 1. Sonata for Piano and Violoncello, op. 18, Rubinstein; a. Allegro Con Moto; b. Allegretto; c. Allegro Molto. Messrs. Charles Kunkel and P.G.Anton. 2. Song-The Flower Girl, Bevignani. Miss Lucille D'Albert. 3. Piano Solo-"Gems of Scotland"-Caprice de Concert, introducing "Kathleen," "Annie Laurie" and "Blue Bells of Scotland," Rive-King. Miss Maud Bersch, Pupil of Mr. Charles Kunkel's artists' class, Kunkel's College of Music. 4, Violin Solo-Walter's Preislied (Walter's Prize Song), from Wagner's "Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg," Wagner-5. Violoncello Wilhelmj. Mr. Sidney Schiele. Solo-Fantasie et Variations on Schubert's Waltz, Le Delire (Longing), Schubert-Servais. Mr. P. G. Anton. 6. Piano Solo-"Home, Sweet Home," Concert Paraphrase, Rive-King. Mr. Charles Kunkel. 7. Song—Sing On (Waltz), Denza. Miss Lucille D'Albert. 8. Violin Solo—a. Canzona, Bohm; b. Cradle Song, Schiele. Mr. Sidney Schiele. 9. Piano Duet—American Girls' March (by request), Kunkel. Messrs. Charles Kunkel and Charles J. Kunkel, nephew of Mr. Charles Kunkel.

261st Kunkel Concert—Seventeenth concert of the season, Tuesday evening, March 20th. 1. Piano Solo-10th Rhapsodie Hongroise, Liszt. Mr. Charles Kunkel. 2. Song-Villanelle, Dell 'Acqua. Mrs. Rosalie Zick Grierson, pupil of Miss Mae Estelle Acton's Artists' Class, Kunkel's College of Music. 3. Piano Solo-Miserere from "Il Trovatore," Paraplirase de Concert, Verdi-Kunkel. Mr. Emile Kroemeke, pupil of Mr. Charles Kunkel's Artists' Class, Kunkel's College of Music. 4. Violin Solo-2nd Concerto, op. 131 (the musical sensation of Europe), Godard; a. Allegro Moderato; b. Adagio quasi andante; c. Allegro non troppo. Signor Guido Parisi. 5. Violoncello Solo—Springtime (Gavotte), Popper. Mr. P. G. Anton. 6. Song-Polonaise from Mignon, Thomas. Mrs. Rosalie Zick Grierson. 7. Trio for Piano, Violin and Violoncello, op. 97, Beethoven; Beethoven's greatest trio; musical critics of the world unanimously say that it contains the finest Andante written by Beethoven; a. Allegro

Moderato; b. Scherzo—Allegro; c. Andante cantabile; d. Allegro Moderato—Presto. Messrs. Parisi, Anton and Kunkel.

262nd Kunkel Concert—Eighteenth concert of the season, Tuesday evening, March 27th. 1. Sonata for Piano and Violin, op. 6, Gade; a. Allegro; b. Andante; c. Allegro. The illustrious Schumann pronounced this Sonata a thought direct from Heaven. Messrs. Arnold Pesold and Charles Kunkel. 2. Song-Scene and Aria from "Der Freischuetz," Weber. Miss Ella Scheffler, pupil of Miss Mae Estelle Acton's Artists' Class, Kunkel's College of Music. 3. Violin Solo-Seventh Concerto, De Beriot; a. Andante Tranquillo; b. Finale-Allegro Moderato. Mr. Arnold Pesold. 4. Piano Solo-a. Trust in God (Religious Meditation), Melnotte; b. Heather Bells Polka, Kunkel; c. Germans Triumphal March, Kunkel. Mr. Charles Kunkel. 5. Song-Thou Art Mine All, Bradsky. Miss Ella Scheffler. 6. Duet for Piano and Violin-Fantasie on themes from Donizetti's "Daughter of the Regiment," op. 88, De Beriot. Messrs. Arnold Pesold and Charles Kunkel.

THE musical season in England has been demoralized through the Boer war. The departure of the Imperial Yeomanry, and the large number of families that are mourning for those lost in Africa, have cast a gloom over the country that is making every form of musical entertain-

ment languish. The theaters are also suffering, and the outlook for a successful season at Covent Garden is far from propitious. A number of continental artists who had planned to visit London this season have postponed their trips indefinitely. Even Dr. Yoachlm who has journeyed to England every winter for the past thirty-five years has relinquished his intention of going to England this winter.

ONE of the exciting bits of news to the feminine world is the announcement of a Mrs. Petschnikoff, a personage hitherto unknown to the public. Mr. and Mrs. Petschnikoff are to play the Bach Concerto for two violins at a concert in Chicago. Mrs. Petschnikoff was a Chicago girl who went to Europe to finish her violin studies and won the heart and hand of the virtuoso.

THERE are two big faults with the American to take the high notes, but she lacks the temperament that makes the great singer—the and the great, glorious enthusiasm back of it. soul of it all. She may have the technique This is not encouraging, but it is an honest

girl who would sing, says Mme. Sembrich. perament of the Italian, the French, the Polish, One fault is her temperament and the other the Russian. She does not get excited befault is her hurry. She is a very proper girl cause she is too cold; and she has not the and very nice girl, but she has not the tem- temperament. Art is excitement and fervor and the ability to study and the range of voice expression of opinion, that must be valued.

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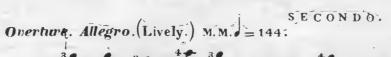


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CONFIDENCE.



STANDARD ORCHESTRA.

There never was, and is not now, a standard orchestra. This is the iconoclastic statement made recently by a writer in the Saturday Review. Let us analyze the subject: Beginning in the crudest way, the orchestra grew, until by Mozart's time, it consisted of violins, first and second, violas, 'cellos, double-basses, flutes, oboes, bassoons, horns, trumpets and drums, and occasionally clarionets. It was not then perfect, or nearly perfect. To mention only a few of its worse defects, the trumpets and horns of that day could play, really play, only certain notes of the scale, and produced mere asthmatic gasps on the others; and the middle part of the strings, owing to the weakness of the viola, was so thin that composers had constantly to thicken with the horns or bassoons, oftenest the bassoons; the bass was also generally weak, and always ridiculous

owing to the range of the double bass being shorter by several notes than that of the 'cello. The great part of the art of writing for this orchestra consisted in a sufficient knowledge of fakes. Everyone of the period could write for iteveryone worth counting as anyone—and knew when to thicken the middle parts and when to strengthen the bass; and this orchestra is the "standard" orchestra of almost every professor save Prof. Prout. Mozart and Haydn put up with it, Mozart because in his brief tragic life he had 110 time to do more than he did in the way of broadening the uses of the orchestra, and Haydn because in his long, bourgeois, industrious life he had hardly another end in view than that of pleasing his good patrons. Had Mozart lived for another twenty or thirty years—but who can say what might have happened had Mozart lived for another twenty or thirty years?—anyway Mozart died and was succeeded, in the matter of orchestration, by Weber, Wagner and Berlioz;

and the orchestra continued to grow. New colors were added: the tubas, the double bassoon, the bass clarinet, and later the pedal or double-bass clarinet, the cor anglais, the clarinets (properly used), the-but why enumerate all the instruments of the orchestra? the point is this: that all these new instruments were added, not as more strings were added, to make more noise, but mainly to add colors to the composer's pallette. Of course, from the very beginning the orchestra had been getting noisier. Haydn's orchestra was much noisier than Sebastian Bach's (even with the two organs of the Matthew Passion thrown in); and Mozart's so much louder than anything that had been heard before that an Imperial gentleman said there were too many notes in his scores. It was chiefly the desire for an increased range of orchestral color that led, step by step, to the huge orchestra of to-day. It goes without saying that the desire of the excited ear for ever greater and greater intensity of sound had something to do with it. But the chief cause

was the desire for additional color. So the orchestra grew to what it is now.

These are incontrovertible facts; and with them before us it is mere folly to talk as the professors talk of a standard orchestra. The right is questionable of any professor, however many hoods he may wear on his honest old stupid shoulders, however long a selection from the alphabet he may carry after his bourgeois name, to select the orchestra of any short period and say: This is the standard orchestra. There has never been a perfect orchestra; there is not a perfect orchestra yet; there is not likely to be a perfect orchestra for many years to come; and instead of regretting that we are moving away from the orchestra of Mozart's and Haydu's time, we should rejoice on that very account. Why two flutes should be right and three flutes a shameful extravagance; why the double clarinet should be looked upon as an unauthorized interloper; why the tubas should be thought



GERTRUDE QUINLIN, Soubret, Castle Square Opera Company,

the inferiors of the trombones (merely because they came in later)—these and a hundred other things pass the comprehension of everyone who gives ten minutes of 'serious thought to the orchestra. The truth is that instead of repelling all the new instruments, we should welcome them, welcome them as helping to make the orchestra a genuine instrument. It is time to be done with the art of faking, which is the only art explained in any book of instrumentation yet written; it is time to say that as there are plenty of players available and we are no longer living around the courts of petty three-square-mile princelets, we should have a complete orchestra. And a complete orchestra would include a complete flute group—a treble, alto, tenor and bass flute; the complete oboe group that the best bands have at present; a complete clarinet group, first and second clarinets, tenor clarinet, bass and double-bass clarinet; and so on right through the orchestra. One of the most important things would be to complete the string group. We want a true tenor, running down to the G beneath the tenor C; the violas would then play a true alto part in their best register. We want also the six-stringed double-bass with frets to avoid the present sudden disappearances of the bass part. When these things are done, we shall be on the way to getting an orchestra worth writing for.

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still is the honored president. He is one of the best known men in the trade, yet of such modest a nature that he seldom appears in print; in the trade he is recognized as "the power behind the throne." Most, if not all, of our leading piano men are in the North, but Mr. French is distinctively a Southern man, commencing in the sheet music business at Nashville, Tenn., in 1870; in a few years he embarked in the piano business. Being a shrewd business man of sterling integrity, he soon became recognized as the leading dealer of the place, and his business increased with his popularity until it ramified into every Southern State. Foreseeing the great development of the West about eighteen years ago, Mr. French moved in that direction, opening up in St. Louis as Field, French & Co. His vast interests were so extended, it was thought best to consolidate them, and in 1887 The Jesse French Piano and Organ Co. was organized, and its business extended until its

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MADAME E. BABER PATHORNE, Liszt's School of Music, has entirely recovered from the severe nervous prostration that has compelled her to resign her work in Colorado Springs. She is in Memphis devoting her piano theory and musical history till June, when she returns to her home in Colorado.

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CHARTER

CHARTER OAK STOVE & RANGE CO., St. Louis, Mo.

SIXTY-NINE new operas (oratorios are included in the official list) were produced in Italy last year, but none, it seems, with any special success. None of the leading Italian composers, such as Mascagni, Puccini, Leoncavallo, nor, of course, Verdi and Boito, were represented at all.

MASCAGNI feels so much hurt by the way he was criticised by the Berlin newspapers that he has refused to conduct another concert

THE Memphis College of Music gave a brilliant recital on the evening of Thursday, March 1st. The departments of piano and

violin and voice all contributed to render as fine a programme as was ever given in Memphis. Prof. Hall has the help of an exceptionably fine corps of teachers.

DISCOURSING on singers and climate, Mr. Spanath notes that the American sopranos-Nordica, Eames, De Lussan, Susan Strong and Susan Adams—are less apt to disappoint audiences than the imported songstresses, perhaps because they are acclimated. Among the men singers at the Metropolitan there are no Americans, while among the foreign men the tenors seem to be much more liable to colds than the baritones and basses—the latter being always "on deck."

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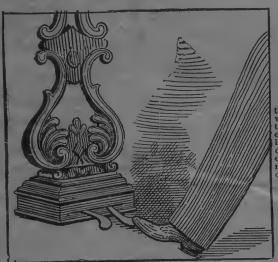
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